

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9477

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 2500

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, FAO, WMO

SUBJECT: FAO- WMO PLANNING ON WEATHER CROP REPORTING
FOR FOOD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

REF: A) GENEVA 462

B) STATE 22737

C) ROME A-630, OCT. 4, 1974

D) STATE A-6927, SEPT. 6, 1974

1. CARTWRIGHT OF U.S. MISSION GENEVA, TAKING OPPORTUNITY OF GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION XII, TOOK INITIATIVE TO ARRANGE THREE-WAY DISCUSSION AMONG HIMSELF, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO, AND WMO METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR VERANNEMAN OF FAO-WMO PLANNING ON WEATHER INPUTS INTO FAO'S FOOD INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. VERANNEMAN GAVE THEM HIS OWN MEMORANDUM OF HIS MEETING WITH FAO IN ROME (COPY SENT TO DEPARTMENT, BYRNES OF IO/AGR).

2. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BRIEFED VERANNEMAN ON APPROACHES AND POINTS OF VIEW OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF FAO INVOLVED IN THIS PLANNING, AND ON SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AFFECTING FAO BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING. VERANNEMAN SAID HE IS NOW UNSURE WHETHER HE SHOULD TAKE HIS OWN PLAN TO WMO CONGRESS

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IN MAY, OR MERELY PRESENT IT WITHIN WMO SECRETARIAT. U.S. REP-

REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO ENCOURAGED HIM TO PLAN TO HOLD IT WITHIN SECRETARIAT, PENDING DEVELOPMENTS IN FAO COUNCIL IN MARCH. VERANNEMAN PLANS TO OBSERVE FAO COUNCIL MEETING IN MARCH, AND IN INTERIM TO ATTEND INTER-AGENCY PLANNING ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 17.

3. VERANNEMAN SAID THAT FAO DID NOT UNDERSTAND WMO SERVES AS PLANNING AGENCY AND LOOKS TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONDUCT ACTUAL OPERATIONS. WMO'S OWN PLANNING FOR PILOT STUDIES, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS THAT PRIVATE WEATHER INSTITUTION BASED IN UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO MIGHT BE CHARGED WITH RECEIVING AND PUTTING TOGETHER DATA. THERE WAS OPPOSITION TO THIS IDEA, HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF CENTERING ACTIVITIES IN ONE COUNTRY AND REMOTE FROM OTHER MAIN COUNTRIES INVOLVED. ALSO RAISED WAS QUESTION OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION FROM TRADERS. CURRENT THINKING IS TO CHARGE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WITH GLOBAL COVERAGE OF SPECIFIC CROPS, E.G., UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH PILOT STUDY ON ONE PRODUCT, USSR WITH ANOTHER, ETC.

4. VERANNEMAN IS THINKING IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF MODELS OF EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON SPECIFIC CROPS IN SPECIFIC SOIL CONDITIONS (REF B, PARA 2 A AND B). U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY CONVEYED THIS IDEA TO FAO FOOD INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING TEAM (REF C) IN FORM OF NOAA STUDY (REF D).

5. VERANNEMAN FAVORS SMALL JOINT SECRETARIAT BETWEEN WMO AND FAO ON THIS PROJECT, I.E., ONE WMO OFFICE TO GO TO ROME, AND 2 FAO OFFICERS TO GO TO GENEVA.

6. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BELIEVES IT BEST THAT DETAILED PLANNING AT THIS STAGE CENTER IN WMO. FAO CAN SET FORTH WHAT IT NEEDS AND WHEN IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DATA, BUT WMO IS BEST EQUIPPED TO DETERMINE WHAT AND HOW DATA SHOULD BE GATHERED. BEST TIME TO CHECK MATTER OUT, AS SUGGESTED IN REF B, IS FAO COUNCIL MEETING IN MARCH. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF GENERAL PATTERN OF FAO THINKING SHORTLY BEFORE THAT MEETING. VOLPE

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